

When the prisoners there who had escaped the hatchets and rifles of the attacking Indians were dragged to an open square for torture and death, Caldwell hurled himself between them and their bloodthirsty captors. By pleas, threats and cajolery he saved many of the helpless prisoners from the fate that usually overtook such unfortunates as fell into hostile Indian hands.

Henceforth, Caldwell was known as "The White Man's Friend." This fact made some of his Indian comrades hate him; and more than one plot was formed for his assassination. Yet undisturbed by praise or hate, he continued to befriend the settlers and to administer wisely the affairs of his own people.

In 1820 Chicago had become a thriving settlement for what was then known as "The Far West." And, leaving the wild life of his people, Caldwell went to Chicago to live as the white man did. This caused still further ill-feeling among the Pottawatomies and Ottawas. But the man's iron will dominated the situation. Even as he was half white and half Indian by birth, so he lived among the white townsfolk and at the same time held his rank among the savages.

So really did Caldwell take to the ways of his adopted people and so quickly did he demand the respect and trust of the Western pioneers that in 1826 he was sworn in as a justice of the peace. He sat in judgment on countless involved frontier cases where his shrewd common sense and ideas of right more than counteracted his partial ignorance of law.

So many clashes between settlers and Indians did he avert that the government decided to reward him. Accordingly, in 1828, the Indian department built for him the first frame house ever erected in Chicago. It was situated near the corner of Chicago Avenue and North State Street. There Caldwell lived until 1836.

Then he went back to the Indians of his own tribes and settled with them at Council Bluffs, Iowa. In the meantime the government had presented him with a 1240-acre tract of land on the north branch of the Chicago River. He